



## **MONTHLY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Hampton History Museum  
Hampton, Virginia

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

**Committee Members Present:** Carol Berg, William Berg, Marti Chick-Ebey, Joy Cipriano, Kurt Clemons, Wayne Cox, Rochelle Crockett, Pete Fairchild, John Gately, Arnold Lorea, Sheila Mason, Al Myers, Michelle Pauley, Tony Soltys, Bill Tucker, Chuck Valliant

**City Representatives Present:** Ann Bane, Will Moffett, Bruce Sturk

**Visiting City Council:** Mayor George Wallace, Vice Mayor Linda Curtis, Councilman Will Moffett, Councilwoman Teresa Schmidt, Councilwoman Chris Snead, Councilman Donnie Tuck

**Visitors and Guests:** Ryan Douglas, TNCC; Angela Fortune, PASAP; Julie Gifford, Office of Veterans and Defense Affairs, Commonwealth of Virginia; Whitney Watkins and Rachel Anderko, Peninsula Town Center; Casey Barton, Brenda Bolder and Bernadette Taranto, all US Navy sailors.

### **I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance**

### **II. Roll Call**

### **III. Approval of January 13th Minutes.** Motion to approve by Carol Berg, seconded by Tony Soltys, and approved unanimously.

### **IV. Introduction of Guests**

- a. Mayor George Wallace and Members of City Council
- b. Angela D. Fortune, Executive Director, Peninsula Alcohol Safety Action Program (PASAP), a principal in the Veterans Court Docket.
- c. Ryan Douglas, an advocate for student veterans at Thomas Nelson Community College and a veteran himself

### **V. Chairman's Activity / Meeting Report**

- a. "What Are You Doing For Others?" The MLK Day of Service was held 8 AM-1PM on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 2015 at the Y H Thomas Community Center, 1300 Thomas Street in Hampton. Approximately 228 people attended the 10th Annual Day of

Service. Participants prepared 135 greetings cards which were later distributed to military personnel serving abroad. The event was co-sponsored by the Peninsula Foster Grandparent Program, Y.H. Thomas Community Center and the Old Northampton Community Organization. One of the highlights of the event was the participation of local elementary school children, who marched carrying messages of Martin Luther King Jr. The MAC had a table at the event to provide information about our organization and the opportunities available to volunteers.

- b. The Communications Subcommittee met at 5:45 PM, Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, regarding a MAC Video and its development. Nicholas Borelli is creating a MAC video that promises to be creative and informational. His willingness to contribute is very much appreciated.
- c. The Chairman attended a Transition on the Go and Military Workforce Recruitment meeting from 2-3 PM on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Peninsula Workforce Development Center, with Arnold Lorea, Chuck Valliant and the TEAM partners. The Chairman thanked Julie Gifford and Kurt Clemons for their efforts.
- d. The Tuskegee Airmen-Tidewater Chapter and MAC member Sheila Mason met at Ruby Tuesday's on 5:30 PM, January 23rd. Progress continues in designing the plaque to honor local Tuskegee Airmen. An event will be scheduled to formally dedicate the plaque and display it in the Veterans Conference Room.
- e. MAC members met with Adair Wells, Military Newspapers regarding the Celebration of the Military Child at 8:30 AM, Wednesday, February 4th. For a complete progress report, contact the Chairman or Secretary.
- f. MAC Planning Meeting was held on February 5th. Pete Fairchild, John Gately, Pat Garvey, Al Meyers, Michelle Pauley, Reba Ross, Tony Soltys, Chuck Valliant, and Jim Wilson attended the last planning meeting. Planning meetings are held in the Lawson Conference Room, 8th Floor, City Hall from 11AM-12PM on the Thursday before monthly MAC meetings.
- g. A special screening of the 2012 George Lucas motion-picture release, "Red Tails" was shown at the Virginia Air and Space Museum at 10:30 AM on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> with the Tuskegee Airmen of the Tidewater there. The Chairman attended the presentation, which was well received.

## **VI. City Reports**

- a. Mayor George Wallace addressed the MAC, expressing his appreciation for their support of the military community in Hampton. He also announced that the Daily Press article about the naming of the Ruppert Sargent Building and Andy Greenwell's 30-year effort to recognize 1LT Ruppert Sargent will be framed and posted in the Veterans Conference Room. 1LT Sargent was killed in action in Vietnam while saving the lives of several of his fellow soldiers. He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.

- b. Councilman Will Moffett thanked the MAC for hosting City Council at the meeting and noted that the attendance of so many councilmen and women demonstrates their respect for our military and veterans.
- c. Bruce Sturk thanked the City Council for attending the MAC meeting and reported on the following:
  - Progress is being made on two Langley AFB initiatives — the clear zone surrounding Langley AFB and Public-Private Partnerships/Shared Services with the City of Hampton. The first shared services project will involve the Langley AFB Library. The City of Hampton will provide staffing and support and the library will be accessible to Hampton citizens.
  - Mayor Wallace, Vice-mayor Curtis, Councilman Tuck and Bruce Sturk attended an event to recognize veterans in the HVAMC Domiciliary. It was reported to be a wonderful event.
  - Progress is being made on the Salvation Army / Hampton VA Medical Center's transitional housing for homeless veterans.
- d. Ann Bane reported that she has been working with transitioning families in Hampton and on SOL reforms.

## **VII. Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Communications. Michelle Pauley, Chair. The website has been updated and a video is being produced by Nicholas Borelli.
- b. Community Affairs. Tony Soltys and Pat Garvey, Co-chairs. Tony reported on several issues:
  - April has again been recognized by proclamation as the Month of the Military Child, and planning for the "Little Heroes at Home: Celebration of the Military Child" is progressing.
  - May is Mental Health Month and there will be a "Hampton VAMC-Community Mental Health Fair on the Southside (probably the Kroc Center in Norfolk) on May 14th." Tony has volunteered to help coordinate the event.
  - Veterans Docket of the Drug Court. There are currently five veterans in the program with expectations of reaching ten soon. Judge Taylor fully supports this initiative and has requested and encouraged MAC support. Docket meetings are held Tuesdays at 2 PM in the Hampton District Court.
- c. Family Support. Nancy Evanko has stepped down as Acting Chair of this committee due to new roles and responsibilities at Phoenix House. We continue to seek new leadership until Peggy Mertz is able to return to her post. We look forward to her return.

- d. Veterans Affairs. Sheila Mason, Chair. Sheila reported on several issues:
- Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Consortium Homeless Point-in-Time Count Survey was conducted January 28-29. Sheila Mason was assigned to the VA Medical Center Team under the leadership of Michael Keeling and Cynthia Crudup. Her team searched various areas in Hampton that the homeless are known to visit. They interviewed and provided survey count information for seventeen homeless individuals. The purpose of collecting data with a Point-in-Time survey is to support resource and funding allocation in an effort to end veteran homelessness in Hampton, James City County, Newport News, Poquoson, Williamsburg, and York County by December 15, 2015.
  - Tuskegee Airmen Award and Proclamation. We will be honoring the Tuskegee Airmen living in Hampton Roads at an event that is tentatively scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> in the Ruppert Sargent Building. Sheila met with the Tidewater Chapter to discuss the event and the plaque that will be displayed in the Veterans Conference Room.
  - VSO/Student VSO Meet & Greet will be held at the next regular MAC meeting in March. Invited guests include members of local VSO chapters and members of Veteran Student Organizations. Sheila Mason is leading the planning effort with Al Myers in support.
  - The next Veterans Stand-Down will take place in November 2015. Marti Chick-Ebey will lead that effort as she has in the past.
  - The 100 Day Challenge Sustainability Review (Conference in Richmond) -- Carol H. Berg, Regional Director Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, Region 5 Greater Hampton Roads gave a summary of the conference and indicated that they are nearing all of their goals. For a complete report, contact the Chairman.
- e. Logistics. Arnold Lorea, Chair. No events to report.

**VIII. Other Business: Reports from Partner Organizations and Visitors**

- a. Julie Gifford, Regional Military Liaison to the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, Office of the Governor, reported that the Military Child Identifier legislation passed. This legislation will enable uniformed services-connected children to be identified and tracked by school districts in order to help inform policy and program decisions and to better provide for federal funding to local school districts. As the MAC's guest speaker in March, Julie will be presenting a full report.
- b. V3 Program. Since June 2012, the V3 Program has accepted 234 member companies. These companies have committed to hiring more than 10,000 veterans, and have

reported nearly 7,000 veterans hired in Virginia to date. Andrew Schwartz is the V3 Program Manager.

- c. Ryan Douglas, an advocate for student veterans at Thomas Nelson Community College, spoke briefly on his work with student veteran organizations. The two issues of particular interest and concern are veteran suicide rates and finding job opportunities for student veterans. The student veterans who contact him do not know where to find information on veteran programs or veteran support. Ryan thanked the MAC for inviting him to attend and looks forward to more participation in the MAC.

## **IX. Calendar of Upcoming Events**

- a. 9 AM, this Thursday, the 12th, in the Parks and Recreation Conference Room, a Celebration of the Military Child coordination meeting.
- b. 1-2:30 PM, Friday, February 13th at Building 137, Room A06, "NAMI Connection for Veterans," Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 100 Emancipation Drive. This NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group is open to veterans who are living with a mental illness or mental health condition. The group meets every Friday, and is designed to help veterans get "support from other veterans who have been there and understand what you are experiencing."
- c. 10 AM – 2 PM, Tuesday, February 17th, "Military to Maritime (M2M) Career and Hire Forum," Half Moone Event Center, Nauticus in Norfolk. This welcome program has strong support from the highest levels of state government. Governor Terry McAuliffe, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs John C. Harvey, Jr., John Rinehart, Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Mayor Paul Fraim, Mayor Linda Johnson and other senior leaders of the Commonwealth are scheduled to attend. Approximately 60 maritime vendors will be participating in the hiring event. The Chairman and other MAC members will also attend.
- d. 9 AM – 2 PM, Thursday, February 19th, the Joint Base Langley-Eustis Job Fair at the Fort Eustis Club, 2123 Pershing Avenue. All branches of the military including Reserve, National Guard, retirees, recently separated veterans and military spouses are welcome. Approximately 24 employers will participate. For further information about the job fair, please call 757-878-4955.
- e. 3:30-5 PM, Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, The "Dry Run" or Practice Session for the CEC (see below) will be held at the Bethel Manor Elementary School Cafeteria.
- f. 5-6 PM, Thursday, February 26th The Joint Base Langley-Eustis Commander, Col Allen will chair the JBLE-Langley Community Events Council (CEC), at the Bethel Manor Elementary School Cafeteria. The CEC is a valuable communication link to increase awareness levels of all community residents concerning initiatives, programs, activities, and facilities. (This meeting was postponed due to weather.)

- g. 8:15 AM, Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, Community Leaders Breakfast Attendees depart for session with Michael Dunfee, Director, HVAMC. (This meeting was canceled due to weather.)
- h. 2 PM, Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, John W. McCaskill, Tuskegee Airmen Interpreter, will portray Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. at the Fort Monroe Theater, 41 Tidball Road. For tickets, call 757-826-6976 or Email LtcVann@aol.com. www.TAI-TidewaterChapter.com. (This event was postponed due to weather.)
- i. 8:30 AM, Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, "Transition on the Go". The second TOG of the year will occur on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- j. 6:30-7:30 PM, Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Fort Eustis, the Survivor Outreach Services will host the "Unveiling of the Wall of Remembrance." By invitation. POC is Rochelle Crockett.
- k. 9:30 AM, Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, Military Workforce Recruitment (MWR) hiring event.
- l. 11 AM-2 PM, Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, "Little Heroes: Celebration of the Military Child" in Exhibit Hall A of the Hampton Roads Convention Center. This is a MNV-MAC partnership event. MNV is working with the Hampton Roads Convention Center and Big Top Entertainment to create a "Candy Land" themed event. MNV would like the MAC to help with publicity (press releases, social media, weekly e-blasts, editorials, proclamations, etc.), sponsorships (Military Bridge, My Active Child), and donations (raffle prizes, in-kind donations). Based on attendance at similar festivals in Virginia Beach, a large turnout is expected.
- m. 10 AM – 5:00 PM, 8 April, Superhero Day, Hampton Main Library. Children and staff will dress up as their favorite Superhero and participate in crafts and activities. Local Police Dept., Fire Dept. and Military are invited to read to the children. Military reading time is from 11:30am-12:00. Tony Soltys is coordinating military support.
- n. 5 PM, Tuesday, 12 May. MAC Monthly Meeting with special Tuskegee Airmen Award and Proclamation Ceremony, Veterans Conference Room, Ruppert Sargent Building.
- o. 15-16 May, 2015, "50th Commemoration of the Vietnam Conflict" will be held at Fort Eustis.
- p. Friday, 15 May: Lunch at Fort Eustis Club with displays and three guest speakers, tentatively identified as LTG (R) Bill Dyes, Emmett Knight and LTC (R) Ross Nguyen. LTG (R) Charles William (Bill) Dyke may attend and speak. LTG Dyke's thirty three months of service in Vietnam included battalion command and duty as G-3 (Operations and Plans) with the 101st Airborne Division.
- q. Saturday, 16 May: Fun Run, Golf, Carnival, Motorcycle ride, music, and the Fort Eustis Military Retiree Appreciation Day (an annual Fort Eustis tradition).

- r. November 2015 (Date TBD), Veterans' Stand Down or "a rallying event to assist and ID as many Homeless Vets as possible prior to the deadline to end chronic Veteran homelessness and meet the Mayor's Challenge by the end of this year.

**X. Meeting Adjourned at 6:00 PM.**

Next MAC Planning Meeting, 11 AM, Thursday, March 5th  
Lawson Conference Room, Eighth Floor, City Hall, Hampton, Virginia

Next MAC Meeting, 5 PM, Tuesday, March 10th  
Vets Conference Room, Ruppert Sargent Building, 1 Franklin Street, Hampton  
Meeting Adjourned at 6:15 PM.